

World War II, buried in American soil overseas with names like Nettuno and Colleville. But in every city, in every neighborhood, in every living room where we cherish the fruits of freedom and democracy, they are with us still.

They would be very proud of the men and women who wear our uniforms today. They would be proud that nuclear weapons in Russia and the United States are no longer pointed at each other for the first time since the advent of the nuclear age. They would be proud of the contributions of Americans to peace in the Middle East and democracy in South Africa. They would be proud that the power of our example has helped to encourage people in Central and Latin America, all over the hemisphere, to embrace democracy. Now all but two nations to our south, all but two, are today governed by democratically elected leaders.

So I say to you, my fellow Americans, today as we cherish the memories of those who fought in World War II and as we salute today's men and women of the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, the Marine Corps, the Coast Guard, the sentinels of our peace and freedom, let us cherish our memory but also remember our mission: to meet the challenges of today at home and abroad, to keep America forever strong and forever young.

Thank you very much, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:40 p.m. at McClellan Air Force Base. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Joe Serna of Sacramento; Secretary of the Air Force Sheila Widnall; Maj. Gen. John Phillips, commander, McClellan Air Force Base; and Lt. Gen. Dale W. Thompson, Jr., vice commander, Air Force Materiel Command, Wright Patterson Air Force Base, OH.

## **Proclamation 6693—Armed Forces Day, 1994**

*May 21, 1994*

*By the President of the United States of America*

### **A Proclamation**

Forty-four years ago, President Harry Truman set aside a special day to salute the men and women who dedicate their lives to the ultimate act of public service: protecting and

defending our lives, our liberties, and our right to the pursuit of happiness.

President Truman proclaimed the first Armed Forces Day at a major turning point in America's history. With the greatest sacrifice, we had just defeated the forces of global domination and tyranny, but we also were faced with the first chill of a Cold War that would last for four decades.

Through it all, from the blood and fire of World War II, to the nightmare fears of nuclear confrontation, America never lost hope, never despaired. We faced each threat with faith in God and in the skills, courage, and dedication of our men and women in uniform. We slept each night in the comforting knowledge that they held constant vigil.

Today we are at another turning point. The Cold War is over, but our Nation is faced with a host of new and more complex challenges to peace and stability in the world. Yet we face the future in a position of strength and with a powerful and ready military force.

As President and Commander in Chief, I am pleased to join with all Americans in saluting the men and women of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and the Coast Guard. We also thank their families and friends, whose love and sacrifice make a special contribution to America's security. The Nation's peace and stability are in very capable hands; we are deeply grateful.

**Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton,** President of the United States of America, and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of the United States, continuing the precedent of my nine immediate predecessors in office, do hereby proclaim the third Saturday of each May as Armed Forces Day.

I direct the Secretary of Defense on behalf of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and the Secretary of Transportation on behalf of the Coast Guard, to plan for appropriate observances each year, with the Secretary of Defense responsible for soliciting the participation and cooperation of civil authorities and private citizens.

I invite the Governors of the States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and other areas subject to the jurisdiction of the United

States, to provide for the observance of Armed Forces Day within their jurisdiction each year in an appropriate manner designed to increase public understanding and appreciation of the Armed Forces of the United States.

I also invite national and local veterans, civic and other organizations to join in the observance of Armed Forces Day each year.

I call upon all Americans, not only to display the flag of the United States at their homes on Armed Forces Day, but also to learn about our system of defense and about the men and women who sustain it, by attending and participating in the local observances of the day.

Proclamation 5983 of May 17, 1989, is hereby superseded.

**In Witness Whereof**, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-first day of May, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and eighteenth.

**William J. Clinton**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:50 a.m., May 23, 1994]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on May 24.

### **Message on the Observance of Armed Forces Day, 1994**

*May 21, 1994*

Greetings to the men and women of the Armed Forces stationed around the world as we celebrate Armed Forces Day, 1994. On behalf of the American people, I am proud to extend heartfelt appreciation for your tremendous service to our country.

Each of you who wears our nation's uniform makes an invaluable contribution to the safety, security, and well-being of the United States and of the entire world. Some of you serve here at home, while others are posted the world over, but all of you work to guard our precious freedom and to further the goals of peace and democracy. In addition to these traditional military roles, you have set a new standard of excellence for international humanitarian efforts—bringing food, shelter,

and medical relief to people in desperate need.

On this important day, I am honored to salute the hard-working individuals serving in the Army, the Marine Corps, the Navy, the Air Force, and the Coast Guard. American owes you a debt of gratitude for all that you have done for our Nation and for all that you continue to do to protect the blessings of liberty we cherish.

**Bill Clinton**

### **Executive Order 12917—Prohibiting Certain Transactions With Respect to Haiti**

*May 21, 1994*

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*), the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*), section 5 of the United Nations Participation Act of 1945, as amended (22 U.S.C. 287c), and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, in view of United Nations Security Council Resolution 917 of May 6, 1994, and in order to take additional steps with respect to the actions and policies of the *de facto* regime in Haiti and the national emergency described and declared in Executive Order No. 12775, it is hereby ordered as follows:

**Section 1.** The following are prohibited, except to the extent provided in regulations, orders, directives, or licenses which may hereafter be issued pursuant to this order, and notwithstanding the existence of any rights or obligations conferred or imposed by any international agreement or any contract entered into or any license or permit granted before the effective date of this order:

(a) The importation into the United States of any goods (other than informational materials, including books and other publications, needed for the free flow of information) originating in Haiti, or of any services performed in Haiti, that are exported from Haiti after May 21, 1994; or any activity by United States persons or in the United States that promotes or is intended to promote such importation;